

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders (rollcall vote 194). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote No. 192. If present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF MARC HAKEN AND
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HILLTOP VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE #4

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 in Hollis, Queens, NY, and its President, Marc Haken for his strong leadership, dedication and commitment to the Hilltop Village community.

On Sunday, August 15, 1952, the New York Times recognized the opening of this grand cooperative with a front page article. Constructed under the National Housing Act of 1952, Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 was the fourth and final completed section of the 500-unit Hilltop Village, occupying 150 acres of Queens, NY. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 opened in December 1953 with 296 apartments and Joseph Desner as its first president.

Since its completion in 1953, Hilltop Village #4 has emerged as a leader in the local community. Among the major projects the group has spearheaded and accomplished are: the creation of the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library on 202nd Street and Hillside Avenue, the construction of a Post Office on 197th Street and Hillside Avenue, and the implementation of a new bus route, the Q76, which runs down Francis Lewis Boulevard to the subway terminal at Hillside Avenue and 179th Street. In addition, residents of Hilltop Village were instrumental in the establishment of the Holliswood Jewish Center.

Community involvement has been especially prominent under the dynamic leadership of Marc Haken, who has served as president of the co-op, and has been reelected every three years since 1978. Under Mr. Haken's direction the co-op became a member of civic and community organizations such as the 107th Precinct Council, the Queens Civic Congress, whose co-op committee is chaired by Mr. Haken, and the Friends of Cunningham Park.

The co-op also makes financial contributions to several local charitable organizations including the Queens Women's Center, the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library, the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Youth Committee of Community Board #8 and to the 107th Precinct of the New York City Police Department. In addition, the

co-op donates roof space for radio antennas to both the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp and the New York City Police Department. It also provides landscaping services for the center divider of Francis Lewis Boulevard. In Marc Haken's 25 years as president of Hilltop Village Co-operatives, the co-op has expanded its prominent role as a leader in the local community.

I commend Mr. Haken and the Hilltop Villages' Board of Directors—Michael Rodi, Miriam Null, Bernice Ackerman, Adrienne Bayuk, Steven Kasavana and Miguel Ramos—for their continued dedication and commitment to community service. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in wishing Marc Haken, the Board of Directors, and the shareholders of Hilltop Co-operatives many more years of success as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful residential community.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent that live in my congressional district.

I am fortunate to represent an ethnically diverse district that has experienced first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Although less than 4 percent of the U.S. population is Asian, I am proud that 19 percent of my congressional district is of Asian descent.

Some cities in my congressional district, have a well-established Asian Pacific American community.

Monterey Park, for example, is home to a Chinese and Chinese-American community.

Monterey Park is 60 percent Chinese and its City Council is majority Asian as well.

Other cities in my congressional district, like West Covina, have experienced an increase in its Asian population in more recent times.

From 1980 to the present, West Covina's Asian Pacific American population has grown from 4 percent to 23 percent.

In addition to this recent growth, the Japanese community in West Covina has long been an important part of the city.

On June 3, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, located in West Covina, will celebrate its 52nd Anniversary.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center provides important services like:

Japanese language classes from the kindergarten to the high school level;

Martial art and cultural classes like Japanese classical dance; and

A year round program for its Japanese American senior and retired citizens.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center has significantly contributed to the strength of West Covina and the greater San Gabriel Valley.

Asian Pacific Americans bring richness not only to our culture, but also to our economy and to our advancement as a nation.

Asian Pacific Americans have made vast contributions in the fields of medicine, technology, and agriculture that benefit all Americans.

Throughout times of heightened national security, Asian Pacific Americans have fought to protect democracy in every war since the Civil War.

For example, despite the disturbing racism towards Japanese Americans during World War II, Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in the armed forces as part of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team remains the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

Not only did these Japanese servicemen show their loyalty to the United States, but they also earned more than 18,000 individual decorations in less than two years. These noble men deserve our recognition.

In closing, I would like to honor the memory of a truly remarkable woman, the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

In my 2 years working with Patsy, I quickly came to admire her spirit and determination.

Patsy was a true warrior, a champion for the causes of equality, civil rights and environmental justice—causes important to the Asian Pacific American community and all communities.

As the first Asian-American woman in Congress, Patsy Mink was a hero to many.

Patsy may not be with us in body any longer, but her spirit continues to thrive as we celebrate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

HONORING BERNICE BECK OF KILLEEN, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last week, Central Texas, the City of Killeen and Ft. Hood lost a friend with the passing of Bernice "Bernie" Beck. Some people will be known for their accomplishments in life. Others will be known for their strength of character. My friend; Killeen's friend; Ft. Hood's friend, Bernice Beck, will be known for both.

Some will be remembered for service to country in time of war. Others will be remembered for service to community in time of peace. Bernice Beck will be remembered for both.

I will miss Bernie Beck, because he was a dear friend, but his lasting legacies cannot be missed, not even by those who never knew him—Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Ft. Hood's III Corps Headquarters, the Soldier Development Center, the Soldier Service Center and Army family housing improvement program—these are but a few of the important projects that bear the imprint of Bernie Beck's commitment to the community and soldiers he loved.

I'll never forget the first time I met Bernie Beck. It was 1990, and I was campaigning for Congress. I asked for his support. In his typical quiet but firm determination, he said I would have it, under one condition. He wanted to know that I would work to get on the Armed Services Committee because of Ft. Hood. I

did. He gave it. I won and a wonderful friendship was started. Somehow, Bernie Beck always seemed to know how to get things done, whether it was business or politics.

In the 13 years I knew Bernie, never once did he come to me to ask for something selfish. It was always something for Ft. Hood, for soldiers and their families, and for his beloved Killeen.

When I was still trying to learn where the bathrooms were in Congress, Bernie Beck and his fellow patron of Ft. Hood, Tommy Joe Mills, introduced me to the powers to be in Congress and the nooks and crannies of the Pentagon. You see, unknown to many, those two would come to D.C. every year and wine and dine key staffers, Members of Congress and Army officials at their own expense . . . well, usually at Bernie's expense. Tommy Joe's gregariousness and Bernie's quiet determination—what a combination. What Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were to entertainment, Beck and Mills were to Ft. Hood. They were an unforgettable partnership that surely only the Good Lord could have brought together . . . and we are all the better for it.

Whether it was General B.B. Bell in Europe last month or the Chief of the Staff of the Army, Rick Shinseki last week, when I met with Army leaders anywhere, they asked about Bernie Beck. They admired him, because he always cared about the Army family.

Some people get things done by shouting. That was not Bernie Beck. Some people inspire by their eloquent orations. That was not Bernie. But, when Bernie Beck spoke, often quietly, people listened and things got done. That was the measure of respect he earned from all of us blessed to know him.

I'll never forget the last time I saw Bernie Beck. It was in Killeen at our community event honoring Ft. Hood soldiers about to be deployed to Iraq. How appropriate for this World War II combat veteran who spent 4 years in Europe fighting Hitler's forces . . . 58 years later sitting quietly in the crowd, never ever forgetting those who serve our nation.

Bernie Beck understood that one day he would be saved by grace, not by good works, but he also knew that helping others was a way to carry out the great commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

Now, that day has come and Bernie Beck is blessed to be in that special place that God surely saves for those of faith who walked humbly, while making life's path better for those who follow.

May God bless his spirit, just as He blessed us by bringing Bernie Beck into this world and into our lives.

TRIBUTE TO LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, On April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the United States visited Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitutional program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution

and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Lakeside High School, a DeKalb County school in my district, represented the state of Georgia in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. Researchers at the Council for Basic Education noted:

[T]eachers feel excited and renewed. . . . Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States.

The class from Lakeside High School recently participated in the national competition in Washington, DC. It was inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I commend these young "constitutional experts" for reaching the We the People national finals: Teacher—Richard Barbe; Students—Jordan Bailey-Hoover, William Bretherton, Stuart Cardwell, Morgan Clemons, Matt Connors, Ann Elise Cutrer, Ross Elliott, Susan Fang, Katherine Fountain, Zack Goodman, Heather Greenfield,

Shabnam Jeddi, Erika Larson, Jonathan Lesesene, Jerel Lewis, Matt Lipkin, Cara Lynch, Courtnei Mills, Munira Mohamed, Vishal Patel, Clarence Quarterman, Ryan Rice, Caitlin Roberson, Kyle Smithers, Callan Steinmann, Karen Usselman, Karl Weidenmann, Jackie Williams, and Ethan Wu.

THE TELECOM INDUSTRY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the news for the Telecom industry is still not good. While there are certainly signs of recovery, there is also significant weakness in the industry.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, April 28, that capital spending by the six major telecom operators was down an average of 19 percent in the first quarter, compared to the same quarter last year. This is 19 percent lower than already low capital spending.

One reason for the lack of spending is regulatory uncertainty. The Federal Communications Commission ruled in February that some of its regulations on broadband should be eliminated. The only problem is that the FCC still has not issued its rules, so companies cannot make their capital spending plans.

Cuts in capital spending mean fewer jobs for those workers who make telecommunications equipment, and those who install it. It means less broadband availability for underserved areas. It means less competition in broadband services. The FCC needs to work to reverse these trends, and should start by issuing the order it agreed on more than 3 months ago.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his third anniversary in office. Under his leadership, Taiwan is now a prosperous democracy respecting human rights and civil liberties. In addition, Taiwan and the United States enjoy a strong trade relationship. We are Taiwan's number one trading partner and Taiwan is our eighth.

With the recent outbreak of SARS, we see the absolute necessity of all countries sharing medical information. Viruses and germs know no boundaries. International cooperation and collaboration are vital in preventing the further spread of SARS. I therefore hope that Taiwan will soon gain observer status in the World Health Assembly this May. Taiwan's 23 million people deserve full access to all available information about diseases and cures.

I appreciate Taiwan's efforts in seeking a dialogue with China and maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. I hope that China will demonstrate its good will by engaging in peaceful talks with the people of Taiwan about the island's future political status.